(b) No contract labourer is being engaged in jobs of permanent or perennial nature. However, 718 casual labourers are being engaged in jobs of perennial nature.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Meeting QoS parameters by service providers

1849. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no service provider has achieved all the benchmarks prescribed by TRAI for Quality of Service parameters for various services including Wireline (Fixed Line) services in the country particularly in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether TRAI has recommended any action against the operators for not complying with the QoS parameters, so far;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) As per the Performance Monitoring Report of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) for the quarter ending 31.03.07, some of the service providers are meeting the benchmarks for all the Quality of Service parameters in some of the service areas including Himachal Pradesh.

(b) According to the service providers, shortage of spectrum and number of Points of Interconnection (POI) are the key factor for degradation to performance and quality of service for wireless access.

(c) to (e) As per Section 29 (penalty for contravention of direction of TRAI) of TRAI Act, 1997, if a person violates the direction of the TRAI, such person shall be punishable with fine as per provisions in TRAI Act, 1997. TRAI has issued a direction on 7th June, 2005 to all service providers to provide Interconnection on the request of the interconnection seeker within 90 days of the applicable payments made by the interconnection seeker. BSNL had gone to TDSAT against this direction. The matter is pending with TDSAT and *sub-judice*.

Downsizing of employees in DoP

†1850. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the decrease/increase in number of employees of the Department of Posts during the last three years;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the affects on efficiency due to decrease in number of employees in the Department;

(c) whether according to Report of CAG business of Postal Department has halved in the last five years;

(d) the loss occurred to Postal Department in 2005-06 and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to coverup the losses and probable amount of profit/loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The decrease in the number of employees in the Department of Posts during the last three years is as under:

Year (as on 31st March)	Actual Strength of Employees	Decrease in number of Employees
2003	262752	–
2004	250714	12038
2005	246678	4036
2006	234187	12491

(b) Wherever the shortage of staff is faced, the work is managed by redistribution and combination of duties. Also computerization and rationalization, of procedure has helped in smoothing functioning of the Department. In view of it decrease in number of employees has not affected the efficiency of the Department.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The deficit of the Department for the year 2005-06 is Rs.1209.88 crore. The said deficit is due to the fact that nearly 89 percent of the expenditure is incurred on mandatory items like, salary, pension of staff etc. Apart from it, rates of most of the postal services have not kept pace with the cost of operation. The Department is also providing a host of services as part of Universal Service Obligations as per the policy of the Government.

(e) The Department has been taking steps to increase the revenue through introduction of the new products, market development activities and adoption of customer oriented strategies. Speed Post, Business Post, Express Post, Retail Post etc. as premium services have been consistently growing. The Department of Posts is also using its vast network for retailing of financial products and services agency functions thereby adding to the Department's revenue. Moreover, Department has also included value added money transfer services to its portfolio like instant Money Order Service and International Money Transfer. The amount of deficit during the year 2006-07 is Rs.1249.52 crore and the probable amount of deficit during the year 2007-08 is estimated to be Rs.1473.62 crore.

Licence for broadband wireless services

1851. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state: